racious Beasts. With these Skins they purchase of the *English*, Guns, Powder and Shot, woollen Cloath, Hatchets, Kettles, Porridge-Pots, Knives, Vermilion, Beads, Rum, &c.

Their Methods of Hunting and Fishing differ from ours, particularly in their manner of deceiving Deer, by an artificial Head of one, by which they the more easily come up with, and kill their Game. This is made with the Head of a Buck, the Horns being diminished by scraping them hollow for Lightness of Carriage; to the Head is left the Skin of the Breast and Neck, which is extended with Hoops for the Arms to enter; the Hunter's Coat is also a Deer's Skin; the Eyes are well represented by the globular shining Seeds of the *Pavia*, or Scarlet flowering Horse-Chestnut. In these Habilements an *Indian* will approach as near a Deer as he pleases, the exact Motion or Behaviour of a Deer being so well counterfeited by them, that it has been frequently known for two Hunters to come up with stalking Heads together and unknown to each other, so that an *Indian* has been kill'd instead of a Deer.

Their annual Custom of Fire-Hunting is usually in *October*. At this Sport associate some Hundreds of *Indians*, who, spreading themselves in Length thro' a great Extent of Country, set the Woods on Fire, which with the Assistance of the Wind is driven to some Peninsula, or Neck of Land, into which Deers, Bears, and other Animals are drove by the raging Fire and Smoak, and being hemm'd in are destroy'd in great Numbers by their Guns.

Of their Sagacity.

The *Indians* are generally allowed to have a good Capacity which seems adapted and even confined to their savage Way of Life. Reading and Writing is the highest Erudition that I have known or heard any of them attain to; though a great Number of them have been, and still continue to be educated at *Williamsburg*-College in *Virginia*, by the Benefaction of the great Mr. *Boyle*, whose pious Design was, that after attaining a due Qualification, they should inculcate amongst their Brethren true Religion and Virtue, yet I have never heard of an Instance conformable to that worthy Intention. And so innate an Affection have they to their barbarous Customs, that though from their Infancy they have been bred, and fared well with the *English*, yet as they approach towards Manhood, it is common for them to elope several Hundred Miles to their native Country, and there to resume their Skins, and savage Way of Life, making no further Use of the Learning so unworthily bestowed upon them.

But I shall here remark, that although every Clan or Nation hath a Language peculiar to itself, there is one universal Language like the *Lingua Franca* in the Sea-Ports of the *Mediterranean*, which is understood by all their Chiefs and Great Men through a great Part of North *America*.

Though their Disesteem for Literature, or their Incapacity of attaining it is such, that is in some measure compensated by a Sagacity or Instinct that *Europeans* are incapable of, and which is particularly adapted to their Conveniency of Life. An Instance or two is as follows:

When a Body of *Indians* set out on an hunting Journey of five Hundred Miles, more or less, perhaps where none of them ever were; after the imaginary Place of Rendez-vous is agreed on, they then consult what Direction it lies in, every one pointing his Finger towards the Place; though but little Variation appears in their Pointings, the Preference of Judgment is given to the Eldest; thus it being concluded on, they set out all singly, and different Ways, except the Women, who jog on a constant Pace, while the Men traverse a vast Tract of Land in Hunting on each Side, and meet together in small Parties at Night. Thus they proceed onward their Journey, and though they range some Hundred Miles from one another, they all meet at the Place appointed. And if any Obstruction happens, they leave certain Marks in the Way, where they that come after will understand how many have passed, and which Way they are gone. They are never lost, though at the greatest Distance from Home; and were they never were before, they will find their Way back by a contrary Way from that they went.

An *Indian* Boy that was brought up very young to School at *Williamsburgh*, at the Age of 9 or 10 Years, ran from School, found Means (no Body knew how) to pass over *James* River, and then travelled through the Woods to his native Home, though the nearest Distance was three Hundred Miles, carrying no Provision with him, nor having any thing to subsist on in his Journey, but Berries, Acorns, and such like as the Wood afforded,

They know the north Point wherever they are; one Guide is by a certain Moss that grows most on the north Side of Trees.

Their Sagacity in tracing the Footsteps of one another is no less wonderful: On a dry Surface, where none but themselves are able to discern the least Impression of any Thing, they often make Discoveries; but on moist Land that is capable of Impression, they will give a near Guess, not only of the Number of *Indians* that have passed, but by the Make and Stitching of their *Mockasins*, will know of what Nation they are, and consequently whether Friends or Enemies. This is a Piece of Knowledge on which great Consequences depend; therefore, they who excell in it are highly esteemed, because these Discoveries enable them to ambuscade their Enemies, as well as to evade Surprises from them; and also to escape from a superior Number by a timely Discovery of their numerous Tracts. One terrible war-like Nation gives them more of this speculative Trouble than all others: These are the *Sennagars*, a numerous People seated near the Lakes of *Canada*, who live by Depredation and Rapine on all other *Indians*, and whose whole Employment is to range in Troops all over the northern Continent, plundering and murdering all that will not submit: Women and Children they carry away captive, and incorporate with themselves. By this Policy they are numerous and formidable to all the Nations of *Indians* from their northern Abodes to the Gulph of *Florida*, except some few who pay them Tribute for their Safe-guard.

If a Prisoner attempts to escape they cut his Toes and half his Feet off, lapping the Skin over the Stump, and make a present Cure. This commonly disables them from making their Escape, they not being so good Travellers as before; besides, the Impression of their half Feet making it easy to trace them.

In their War-Expeditions they have certain Hieroglyphicks, whereby each Party informs the other of the Successes or Losses they have met with; all which is so exactly performed by their *Sylvan* Marks and Characters, that they are never at a Loss to understand one another.

Their Drunkenness.

The Savages are much addicted to Drunkenness, a Vice they never were acquainted with till the Christians came amongst them. Rum is their beloved Liquor, which the *English* carry amongst them to purchase Skins and other Commodities with. After taking a Dram they are insatiable till they are quite drunk, and then they quarrel, and often murder one another, though at other Times they are the freest from Passion of any People in the World. They are very revengeful, and never forget an Injury till they have received Satisfaction, yet they never call any Man to account for what he did when he was drunk, but say it was the Drink that caused his Misbehaviour; therefore he ought to be forgiven.

Their Wars.

Indians ground their Wars on Enmity, not Interest, as *Europeans* generally do; for the Loss of the meanest Person of the Nation they will go to War, and lay all at Stake, and prosecute their Design to the utmost, till the Nation they were injured by be wholly destroyed. They are very politick in carrying on their War, by advising with the ancient Men of Conduct and Reason that have been War-Captains; they have likewise Field-Counsellors, who are accustomed to Ambuscades and Surprizes, in which consists their greatest Atchievements; for they have no Discipline, nor regular Troops, nor did I ever hear of a Field-Battle fought amongst them. A Body of *Indians* will travel four or five Hundred Miles to surprise a Town of their Enemies, travelling by Night only, for some Days before they approach the Town. Their usual Time of Attack is at Break of Day, when, if they are not discovered, they fall on with dreadful Slaughter, and Scalping, which is to cut off the Skins of the Crown from the Temples, and taking the whole Head of Hair along with it as if it was a Night-cap: Sometimes they take the Top of the Scull with it; all which they preserve, and carefully keep by them for a Trophy of their Conquest. Their Caution and Temerity is such, that at the least Noise, or Suspicion of being discovered, tho' at the Point of Execution, they will give over the Attack, and retreat back again with Precipitation.

Part of an Enterprize of this Kind I chanced to be a Witness of, which was thus: Some *Chigasaws*, a Nation of *Indians* inhabiting near the *Mississips* River, being at Variance with the *French*, seated themselves under Protection of the *English* near Fort *Moor* on *Savanna* River: With five of these *Indians* and three white Men we set out to hunt; after some Days Continuance with good Success, at our returning back, our *Indians* being loaded with Skins, and Barbacued Buffelo, we espied at a Distance a strange *Indian*, and at length more of them appeared following one another in the same Tract as their Manner is: Our five *Chigasaw Indians* perceiving these to be *Cherikee Indians* and their Enemies, being alarm'd, squatted, and hid themselves in the Bushes, while the rest of us rode up to the *Cherikees*, who then were increased to above twenty: After some Parley we took our Leave of each other, they marching on towards their Country, and we homeward; in a short time we overtook our *Chigasaws*, who had hid their Loads, and were painting their Faces, and tripping up every little Eminence, and preparing themselves against an Assault. Tho' the *Cherikees* were also our Friends, we were not altogether unapprehensive of Danger, so we separated from our *Indian* Companions, they shortening their Way by crossing Swamps and Rivers, while we with our Horses were necessitated to go further about, with much Difficulty and a long March, for Want of our *Indian* Guides. We arrived at the Fort before it was quite dark: About an Hour after, while we were recruiting our exhausted Spirits, we